

Surah 73 Surah Muzzammil

THE ONE WRAPPED IN A SHAWL

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH MUZZAMMIL AND THE PRECEDING SURAHs

Surahs Muzzammil and *Muddathir* both discuss the same subject matter. The *Surahs* preceding these two discussed an aspect of *Towheed* i.e. the belief that only Allaah is the source of all blessings. This was discussed at great length, using logical proofs, warnings and various other modes and methods of address. In this way, *Shirk* is effectively refuted.

Now, the message is that the Qur'aan must be recited because it is a means of guidance and that men must hold onto *Towheed*. *Surah Muzzammil* contains the instruction to recite the Qur'aan properly, while *Surah Muddathir* exhorts the Muslims not to confine themselves only to the recitation of the Qur'aan but that they should also propagate its injunctions, especially that of *Towheed*.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The first nine verses of the *Surah* contain the first instruction to stand in prayer (*Tahajjud salaah*) during a part of the night in which the Qur'aan should be recited. Allaah should then be worshipped in earnestness and no partners should be associated with Him.

Thereafter, verses 10 and 11 console Rasulullaah ﷺ by telling him not to be grieved by what the *Kuffaar* say because Allaah will settle their affair. Allaah then warns the *Kuffaar* and the *Mushrikeen* about the various forms of punishment that they will have to suffer in the *Aakhirah* [verses 12 to 14].

From the words **“Verily We have sent a Rasool (Muhammad ﷺ) to you people...”** until the end of verse 16 Allaah reminds the *Mushrikeen* that He has sent to them a great prophet, just as He had sent a prophet to *Fir'oun*. When *Fir'oun* refused to believe in Moosa ﷺ and rejected his message, Allaah destroyed him along with his entire army. Allaah warns the *Mushrikeen* that they will also suffer Allaah's punishment if they choose to oppose Rasulullaah ﷺ.

In verses 17 and 18, Allaah again warns people about the *Aakhirah*, reminding them that punishment in this world will not end the affair, but that they will have to suffer dreadful consequences in the *Aakhirah* as well. Thereafter, Allaah impresses upon them that they should follow the advice of the Qur'aan, when He says, **“(All of) This (already mentioned) is advice indeed. So whoever wishes to do so, should adopt a path (the path of Islaam) to (attain the pleasure of) his Rabb.**

The concluding verse of the *Surah* echos the beginning of the *Surah* because of its reference to performing *Salaah* during the late hours of the night. Allaah says that He is Aware of that fact that some people are ill, some are weak, others are on journey and there are those who are fighting in *Jihaad*. Therefore, Allaah makes the concession that people can perform the *Tahajjud salaah* as they please without any compulsion. In their *Salaah*, they may recite as much of the Qur'aan as they can.

سُوْرَةُ الْمُزَّمِّلِ فَكِتَبَتْهُ عَشْرُونَ لَيْلَةً وَقَفَّهَا الْكَوْنُ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate the Most Merciful

يَا أَيُّهَا الْمَزْمِلُ ①

1. (Affectionately addressing Rasullullaah ﷺ according to his dress at the time, Allaah says,) **O you wrapped in a cloth (shawl)!**

قُمِ اللَّيْلَ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا ②

2. **Stand up all night (in Tahajjud salaah) except for a little while (to rest)...**

رَّصْفَةً أَوْ انْقُصْ مِنْهُ قَلِيلًا ③

3. ...*(stand in salaah for) half the night or slightly less (than half, such as a third of the night)...*

أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا ④

4. ...*or add some more (time to the half, making it two-thirds). And recite the Qur'aan clearly (and steadily so that each letter is distinct and accurately pronounced).*

إِنَّا سَنُلْقِي عَلَيْكَ قَوْلًا ثَقِيلًا ⑤

5. **Verily We shall soon cast a weighty (important) word (the Qur'aan) upon you.**

إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْأً وَأَقْوَمُ قِيلًا ⑥

6. **Undoubtedly, waking at night (for salaah) is extremely difficult (but most effective for controlling the Nafs) and speech (du'aas and recitation of the Qur'aan) is most correctly spoken then (because it is a time when one is free of duties and disturbances).**

إِنَّ لَكَ فِي النَّهَارِ سَبْحًا طَوِيلًا ⑦

7. **You certainly have intensive (important) work (of propagating Islaam) during the day (and will be unable to devote your attention exclusively for worship during the day. The night is therefore best for this purpose).**

وَاذْكُرْ اسْمَ رَبِّكَ وَتَبَتَّلْ إِلَيْهِ تَبْتِيلًا ۝٨

8. Mention the name of your Rabb (engage in Dhikr) and (when doing this) cut yourself off from everything (of this world) to focus your attention solely on Him.

رَبِّ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَاتَّخِذْهُ وَكِيلًا ۝٩

9. He is the Rabb of the East and the West. There is no Ilaah but Him, so adopt Him as your guardian (for none other can safeguard you).

وَاصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَاهْجُرْهُمْ هَجْرًا جَمِيلًا ۝١٠

10. Patiently bear whatever they (the Kuffaar) say (to insult you) and (when they become unbearable,) separate from them in a most pleasant manner (without fighting them and without the desire for revenge). (This ayat is Makki revealed before Hijraat. The order of Jihaad came in Madinah.)

وَذَرْنِي وَالْمُكَذِّبِينَ أُولَىٰ النَّعْمَةِ وَمَهِّلْهُمْ قَلِيلًا ۝١١

11. Leave me (to deal) with the rejecters (of Imaan) who (think that they) are blessed with bounties (of this world) and grant them grace for a while (bear with them until they learn their lesson the hard way).

إِنَّا لَدَيْنَا أَتَاكُلًا وَجْجِيمًا ۝١٢

12. Verily We have (in store for them in Jahannam) handcuffs, and the Blazing fire...

وَطَعَامًا ذَا غُصَّةٍ وَعَذَابًا أَلِيمًا ۝١٣

13. ...food that gets stuck in the throat (cannot be swallowed because of its terrible taste and texture) and a painful punishment.

يَوْمَ تَرْجُفُ الْأَرْضُ وَالْجِبَالُ وَكَانَتِ الْجِبَالُ كَثِيرًا مَّهِيلًا ۝١٤

14. (This punishment will take place) On the day (of Qiyaamah) when the earth and mountains will shake (shiver and quake) and the mountains will be reduced to (become) a heap of dust.

إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ رَسُولًا شَاهِدًا عَلَىٰكُمْ كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ رَسُولًا ۝١٥

15. Verily We have sent a Rasool (Muhammad ﷺ) to you as a witness (to your actions so that he may testify on the Day of Qiyaamah) just as We sent a Rasool (Moosa عليه السلام) to Fir'oun.

فَعَصَىٰ فِرْعَوْنُ الرَّسُولَ فَأَخَذْنَاهُ أَخْذًا وَبِيلًا ﴿١٦﴾

16. Fir'oun refused to obey the Rasool so We seized (punished) him most severely.

فَكَيْفَ تَتَّقُونَ إِن كَفَرْتُمْ يَوْمًا يَجْعَلُ الْوِلْدَانَ شِيبًا ﴿١٧﴾

17. So if you (choose to) disbelieve, how will you save (yourselves) from (the punishment of) the day that will (be so frightening that it will) turn children's hair white?

السَّمَاءُ مَفْطَرٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ كَانَ وَعْدُهُ مَفْعُولًا ﴿١٨﴾

18. The sky will be split apart on that day. His (Allaah's) promise always takes place. (is definite).

إِنَّ هَذِهِ تَذْكِرَةٌ فَمَنْ شَاءَ اتَّخَذَ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِ سَبِيلًا ﴿١٩﴾

19. (All of) This (that has been mentioned already) is advice indeed. So whoever wishes to do so, should adopt a path (of Islaam) to (attain the pleasure of) his Rabb.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِنْ ثُلُثَيِ اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ وَثُلُثَهُ وَطَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَكَ
وَاللَّهُ يُقَدِّرُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ عَلِمَ أَن لَّنْ نُحْصِيَهُ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ
الْقُرْآنِ عَلِمَ أَن سَيَكُونُ مِنْكُمْ مَّرْضَىٰ وَآخَرُونَ يَضْرِبُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَبْتَغُونَ مِنْ فَضْلِ
اللَّهِ وَآخَرُونَ يَقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنْهُ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ
وَاقْرَءُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنفُسِكُمْ مِن خَيْرٍ نَّجِدْهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ هُوَ خَيْرًا
وَأَعْظَمَ أَجْرًا وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا لِلَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿٢٠﴾

20. (In trying to put into practice verses 3 and 4 above, Rasullullaah ﷺ and the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ found it tedious to precisely calculate two-thirds, half or one-third of the night. Fearing that they should miscalculate and fail to stand for the stipulated periods, the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ therefore stood in salaah almost the entire night. As a result of this exertion, their feet used to swell and they grew extremely pale. Taking pity on them, Allaah revealed the verse saying,) Verily your Rabb knows that you (O Rasullullaah ﷺ) and a group of those (Sahabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ) with you stand (in salaah) close to two-thirds of the night, (sometimes) half the night and (sometimes) a third (of the night). Allaah determines the (duration of the) night and the day. He knows that you are unable to precisely calculate (the duration of each portion of the night) so He has turned to you in mercy. Therefore, (instead of trying to recite too much) recite that part of the Qur'aan (in Tahajjud) which is easy (stand in Tahajjud only as long as you can manage). Allaah knows that some of

you may fall ill, others will travel in the world in search of Allaah's bounty *(to earn a living)* **and others will fight in Allaah's path.** *(In each case, they will be unable to perform Tahajjud as they do at home.)* **Therefore, recite** *(only)* **that of the Qur'aan** *(in Tahajjud)* **which is easy.** *(Although Tahajjud is not obligatory, do not neglect to)* **Establish** *(the Fardh)* **salaah, pay zakaah and give to Allaah a good loan** *(spend in charity for Allaah's pleasure).* **Whatever good you send ahead for yourselves** *(as reward to the Aakhirah),* **you will find it with Allaah in a better and more rewarding state. Seek forgiveness from Allaah. Verily Allaah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.**